

DRAFT MINUTES

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9th, 2024 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kent Hansen
Dick Vanderkous
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Director
Mike Frost, landowner
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Emily Mancheno, DFW
Melissa Riley, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Randy Weinrich, DFW

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Waters called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Waters opened the October 9, 2024, Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Waters asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the September 11, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Waters asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2024, Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for September 2024 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the September 2024 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$151,045.86. All expenses are regular general fund operations, salaries, or reimbursable contract expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the September 2024 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$10,211.66. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Mr. Chappell reported the September 2024 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$29,657.06. All expenses were normal Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Mr. Hansen moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Randy Weinrich provided the DFW report. Elk season ended on September 27th, with 36 of 38 tags filled this season. Wildlife Area flood-up is about 80% on the main unit with likely full flooding of the ponds by opener. There are 175 waterfowl reservations issued for the opening weekend with 225 reservations after that. Island Slough had an interior levee erosion problem that was repaired, and the water is going on that unit, but a little late. Goodyear Unit will be filled starting October 8th. The remodeled check station is nearly complete. Joice Island exterior levee grading has been complete, in preparation for dredging starting October 14th. Waterfowl that died due to botulism have recently been found at Yolo Wildlife Area. There have been no botulism cases found on Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. Discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. For the month of September, there were no salinity standards for the Marsh. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 2.1-10.5 mS/cm. At the end of September, net Delta outflow was 11,032 cfs. As of October 6th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 1.6-9.1 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had dropped to 3,591 cfs. Suisun Marsh October salinity standards are 19.0

mS/cm for the eastern and western marsh stations.

The Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS) levee inspections were conducted by DWR staff, and Delta Field Division (DFD) continues to conduct Roaring River fish screen cleaning. Environmental staff completed a clearance for trenching work at the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates flashboard yard. Levee inspections were conducted at the Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) and Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) facilities, and DFD conducted debris clearing. DWR received RGP 3 approval to repair the Fleet water quality station. At the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG), 60 days of SMSCG operations began on September 6th and ended midnight on October 1st. The gates are now in the open position. Installation of a new stoplog rack was conducted this month. Gate 2 remains out for refurbishment but will be reinstalled this fall fairly soon. A vegetation update will be provided in November.

California reservoir capacity in September ranged from 64-88% of average in the northern Sierra and 47-98% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was reset to 0 for the northern and southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~ Mr. Chappell reported that there have been no changes in the 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement. The Contract continues to fund the SRCD water Managers Program and 2024 PAI cost share program.
- b) 2024 PAI Program Update ~ The 2024 PAI cost share program construction year is drawing to a close. SRCD will be processing any completed 2023 or 2024 projects for reimbursement. Moving forward, if approved 2023 projects were not completed this summer, they will be cancelled and have to be reapplied for in a future application period.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Mr. Chappell reported that he participated in the September 12th Suisun Marsh Principal call and will participate in the October call tomorrow morning. At the next Adaptive Management Advisory Team Meeting the Rush Ranch Goat Island tidal restoration project will make a presentation of their proposed project. The AMAT will receive an update on western pond turtle and longfin smelt life history and specifics of habitat use in the Suisun Marsh.
- d) RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 and Letter of Permission Dredging permits. On October 3rd, Mr. Chappell completed an audit tour with the US Army Corps and Water Board staff with a fieldtrip across the Marsh and power point presentations. All the permit authorization have been received for

the 2024 LOP dredging program. The 2024 work window will remain open through the end of November. After that, SRCD will begin closing out the 2024 work season reports and preparing year end annual compliance reports. Discussion ensued.

- e) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa presented the Water Manager Program update. The Water Managers continued working with landowners on fall flood-up coordination. Ms. Guzman, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa attended the weekly 2024 Roaring River Distribution System flood-up coordination calls. Mr. Edmunds worked on maintenance needs and repairs on several fish screens. He worked with Mr. Taylor and Ms. Guzman to re-install the fish screens on September 23rd, 27th, and October 1st. He worked with Ms. Guzman to conduct RTK GPS surveys for a club during the week of September 16th. He provided summary billing costs for helicopter treatment of *Phragmites* for participating landowners. He also coordinated the scheduling for treatment of invasive *Phragmites* at the Tule Red Restoration Project at the request of DWR which was completed on October 2nd.

Mr. Taylor worked on sonde deployment in Boynton and Goodyear Slough for required water quality monitoring. He managed data downloads and sonde swaps with Marina's assistance on September 24th and October 2nd. He inspected PAI projects on parcels #402 and #403, and he worked on drought response applications for the same parcels. He completed an EPA Waste Disposal Questionnaire and updated the account for SRCD on October 1st. He oversaw the completion of repairs on the gate monitoring boat trailer at Les Schwab.

Ms. Guzman assisted the Bird Returns project staff with landowner access from September 11-13. She obtained project completion photos of our Delta Conservancy grant projects. She initiated a clean-up and organization efforts for the SRCD garage. On the week of September 16th, she completed deployment of water level loggers at our Delta Conservancy project sites (505, 802, and 807) before the flood-up. On October 7th, she completed a draft of the 4th quarter West Wind newsletter for review.

Ms. Collins provided assistance for several administrative tasks including employee hour tracking, credit card billing, project reports, and timesheet submittals. She posted the Fall Landowner Workshop recording to the SRCD website on September 25th. Ms. Collins, Mr. Chappell, and Mr. Takekawa submitted a \$3.6M SFB Restoration Authority or Measure AA grant for renovating the remaining Suisun Marsh fish screens on October 4th. She obtained updated data and completed corrections on the Suisun Marsh fish biomass analysis manuscript.

Ms. Brandon continued working on occupancy models and met with biologist Cody Aylward to review project updates. She requested input for the final report for the NFWF Phase 2 mouse project that is due at the end of the month and she worked on completing a statistical analysis on fish biomass patterns. She updated citations

in the levee breaches manuscript, and she worked on programming of a camera trap and developing a user guide to support remove water level assessments.

Mr. Taylor, Ms. Guzman, Ms. Brandon, and I prepared the warehouse building at Pete Smith's for the Fall Landowner Workshop on the afternoon of September 17th, and all staff attended the Fall Landowner workshop on September 18th. We hosted a fieldtrip to discuss lightweight HDPE control gates with guest Mr. Dennis van Coolwijk of Go-Sep Engineering, New Jersey. Mr. Chappell, Ms. Guzman, Ms. Brandon, and Mr. Takekawa attended the Bay-Delta Science Conference in Sacramento between September 30th and October 2nd. During the conference, Mr. Takekawa hosted a special session to present the results of our *Phragmites* socioecological study with our coinvestigators from Utah State, Berry College, University of Delaware, and Purdue University.

- f) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Mr. Mouton continued to maintain the facilities and habitats on the island. The repair work on the Polaris Pro XD 2000D UTV was completed at United Rental, and the unit was returned to the island and now runs much better. Mr. Mouton spent early September preparing the habitat in the south unit and flooding it during the week of September 15th and drained that weekend for mosquito control before reflooding. He spent the latter half of September mowing and discing the north unit which was flooded during the last week of September. On October 7th, Mr. Takekawa worked with Mr. Mouton to clean the clubhouse in advance of the annual checkout inspection with the lease club scheduled for Friday, October 11th. A mechanic from Pape Machinery in Rohnert Park came to the island two times on September 23rd and October 3rd to diagnose and repair the bulldozer which was determined to have an electrical problem in a speed grip sensor.
- g) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell reported on good attendance of the Fall Landowner Workshop on September 18th. The SFBRA grant manager is inspecting the fish screen projects with Steve on October 22nd. Mr. Chappell will attend the Delta Conservancy Board meeting on October 23rd. Discussion ensued.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.
- d) Finance Committee ~ Mr. Chappell reported that he pushed the SRCD annual audit field work back to early spring.
- e) Associate Director's Committee ~ No report.

9. **Meeting Adjournment** ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Vanderkous seconded by Mr. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.